

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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Recommended citation

BirdLife International (2001) *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.

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ISBN 0 946888 42 6 (Part A)

ISBN 0 946888 43 4 (Part B)

ISBN 0 946888 44 2 (Set)

British Library-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

First published 2001 by BirdLife International

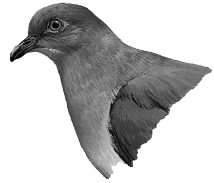
Designed and produced by the **Nature**Bureau, 36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ, United Kingdom

Available from the Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: +44 1803 865913 Fax: +44 1803 865280 Email nhbs@nhbs.co.uk
Internet: www.nhbs.com/services/birdlife.html

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MINDANAO BROWN-DOVE

Phapitreron brunneiceps



Critical —

Endangered —

Vulnerable A1c,d; A2c,d; C1; C2a

This species is undergoing a continuing rapid decline owing to widespread reduction in forest cover within its range, and is now assumed to have a small population that is becoming increasingly severely fragmented. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable.

DISTRIBUTION The Mindanao Brown-dove (as here defined: see Remarks 1 under Tawitawi Brown-dove *Phapitreron cinereiceps*) is endemic to the Philippines on two islands, Mindanao and Basilan. Records for the species (some of which may better be treated as provisional) are as follows:

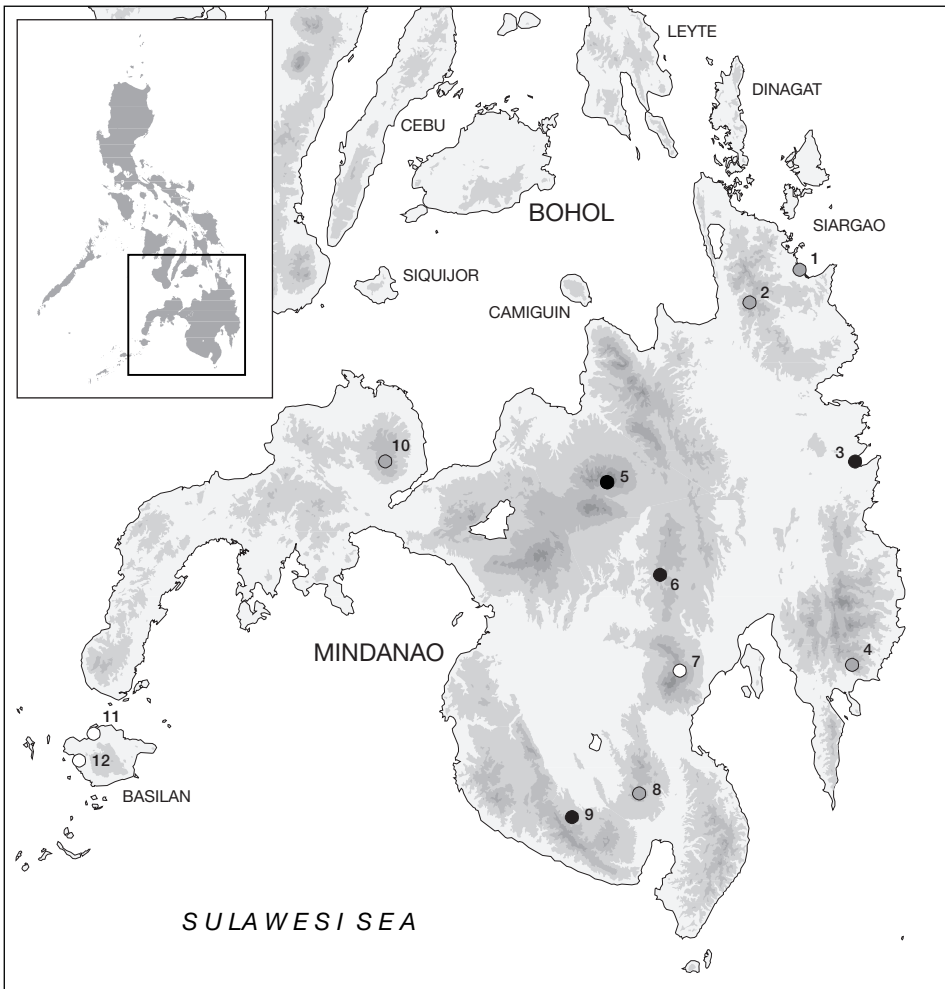
■ **PHILIPPINES** *Mindanao (eastern)* “**Car–Can–Mad–Lan**”, 330–640 m, May 1963 (female in USNM); **Mt Hilong-hilong** at Siwod (900–1,200 m on four labels), at Balangbalang, Cabadbaran, 150–300 m, and at an unspecified locality at 1,200–1,500 m, April 1963 (nine specimens in AMNH, DMNH); **Bislig** at the PICOP concession, several occasions until February 1997 at least (Evans *et al.* 1993a, T. H. Fisher verbally 1997); **Mt Mayo** at Unloh and Inahanan, Mati, June 1965 (Dickinson *et al.* 1991; two specimens in USNM); (*central*) **Mt Kitanglad** on Mts Imbayao and Nangkabulos in 1992 and 1993 (Heaney *et al.* 1993), one specific site being 15 km south and 6 km east of Baungon, 1,100 m, April 1992 (two specimens in FMNH), and in the protected area, January 1995 (A. J. Long verbally 1996); **Budaco Lumber Concession**, at the junction of Bukidnon–Davao–Cotabato, 550 m on one label, February 1980 (five specimens in DMNH, YPM); **Mt McKinley**, part of the Mt Apo range, Davao, at 915–940 m, August and September 1946 (Rand and Rabor 1952b); **Mt Matutum**, Tupi, South Cotabato, June 1966 (specimen in YPM); **Lake Sebu** at Sitio Siete, South Cotabato, 1,100 m, February 1992 (Evans *et al.* 1993a); (*western*) **Mt Malindang** at Masawan and at Kanon, Mutia, 970 m on one label (general range: 820–1,350 m), 1956 (Rand and Rabor 1960), December 1961 (four specimens in DMNH) and January 1963 (female in USNM);

Basilan **Isabela**, August and September 1891 (McGregor 1907a, Dickinson *et al.* 1991; female in USNM), and near Isabela, February 1907 (McGregor 1907a); 15 km north-east of **Maluso**, April 1937 (Peters 1939); otherwise collected on the island in 1925 (specimen in DMNH).

POPULATION The available data suggest that this bird is at best uncommon (Dickinson *et al.* 1991) and at worst extremely rare (Collar *et al.* 1994). On Mt Malindang in 1956 it was much scarcer than Amethyst Brown-dove *P. amethystina* (Rand and Rabor 1960), while in recent fieldwork on Mt Kitanglad it was observed infrequently (Heaney *et al.* 1993), perhaps because of its shyness compared to, for example, White-eared Brown-dove *P. leucotis* (D. Allen verbally 1997). At Bislig the Mindanao Brown-dove is recorded at about a tenth of the frequency of Amethyst Brown-dove (T. H. Fisher verbally 1997). Records have come from only three localities since (and excluding) 1980, but against this it may well be that identification problems and the bird’s unobtrusiveness will have resulted in its being overlooked at some other sites.

ECOLOGY *Habitat* This pigeon has been reported as occurring in the upland forests of Mindanao between 1,000 and 2,000 m (Dickinson *et al.* 1991), but the meagre data under

Distribution suggest that it is a bird of lower elevations, the range of altitudes being 150–1,500 m (and Basilan is far lower than Mindanao). The report that on Mt Kitanglad it was observed in montane forest above 1,200 m (Heaney *et al.* 1993) is mildly contradicted by the specimen evidence from the same fieldwork (both birds at 1,100 m), these being taken (a) over a stream in transitional lowland/montane valley forest, and (b) in transitional lowland/montane ridge-top forest (FMNH label data); this was also the habitat in which a bird was seen in January 1995 (A. J. Long verbally 1996). On Mt Malindang the species occurred alongside Amethyst Brown-dove, “in the same habitat, with the same behaviour, and both were taken from the same fruiting tree where they were feeding” (Rand and Rabor 1960), yet there must be some ecological separation between two such similar species.



The distribution of Mindanao Brown-dove *Phapitreron brunneiceps*: (1) Car–Can–Mad–Lan; (2) Mt Hilong-hilong; (3) Bislig; (4) Mt Mayo; (5) Mt Kitanglad; (6) Budaco Lumber Concession; (7) Mt McKinley; (8) Mt Matutum; (9) Lake Sebu; (10) Mt Malindang National Park; (11) Isabela; (12) Maluso.

○ Historical (pre-1950) ◐ Fairly recent (1950–1979) ● Recent (1980–present)

Food Nothing is known (but the stomachs of the two FNMH specimens were saved).

Breeding A nest with two young was found in April on Basilan before 1927 (Dickinson *et al.* 1991). Both April specimens from Mt Kitanglad had skulls only 50–60% ossified, and one was in heavy body moult (FMNH label data).

Migration Nothing has been recorded, but some vertical and possibly nomadic movements should be anticipated in any conservation strategy involving this species.

THREATS Habitat destruction and intensive hunting or snaring are the main threats to the species, a case which holds true for most larger forest-dependent frugivores (see Threats under Sulu Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba menagei*). Forest clearance within the known altitudinal range of the species has been extensive (P. Walpole verbally 1997). At Bislig good primary forest is being clear-felled (under the PICOP logging concession) and the land planted with exotic trees for paper production (B. Gee *in litt.* 1997; also Caufield 1983).

MEASURES TAKEN The species has been recorded, at least historically, at two CPPAP sites (Mts Kitanglad and Apo) and one NIPAP site (Mt Malindang; see Appendix) on Mindanao. In addition, Mt Matutum receives FPE funding for conservation-related activities; some protection may also be conferred by the watershed reserve on Mt Hilong-hilong (see Appendix).

MEASURES PROPOSED Apart from the areas targeted for conservation above, the species has been recorded from sites in or near three “key sites” (Mts Mayo and Three Kings on Mindanao; Central Basilan; see Appendix) and these deserve further survey and formal designation under the NIPAS process. Forest conservation on Mindanao should be based on an integrated strategy designed to meet the requirements of all threatened birds wholly or largely reliant on this habitat (see equivalent account under Blue-capped Kingfisher *Actenoides hombroni*). A survey to relocate the species in its historical range is needed to assess its real conservation status and determine its ecology; an early effort to record its voice might be particularly valuable in this regard.